(d) whether Government have taken up this matter with the UAE;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) No. There is no ultimatum issued by the UAE Government to expatriates including those from KERALA to leave the country by April, 2003. There is, however, a general amnesty declared by the UAE Government for those expatriates who are illegally staying in the UAE to leave the country by April 30, 2003. The total number of people affected by this order is not expected to be very large.

(d) to (f) The Embassy of India in the UAE has been in touch with the UAE authorities for discussing the modalities and implementation of the amnesty scheme.

Transportation of equipment for nuclear weapons from Pakistan to North Korea

265. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether North Korea has secretly transported equipments for its nuclear arms programme from Pakistan in 1998 by hiding it in the coffin of the murdered wife of a North Korean diplomat to Islamabad;

(b) if so, whether the equipment included a sample gas centrifuge used to enrich uranium necessary for producing nuclear weapons;

(c) if so, whether Government have examined these reports and to what extent they have been found true;

(d) whether North Korea has become one of the dangerous countries for India; and

(e) if so, the stand India has taken against the North Korean nuclear arms programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) According to Media Reports

the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) smuggled a centrifuge plant for uranium enrichment for its clandestine nuclear programme in a coffin which was meant for transporting the murdered wife of a North Korean Diplomat from Islamabad in 1998.

(d) and (e) Government continues to monitor such reports that have a bearing on India's security environment and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard nation's security. India has supported the resolutions of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for continuation of IAEA safeguards in DPRK.

Non-extradition pact with United States

266. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has recently signed a non-extradition pact with the United States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Indo-U.S. treaty would not weaken foundation of the International Criminal Court created under the Rome Statute of 1998 which is multi-national body to try international crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) The Agreement between the Governments of India and the United States regarding the surrender of persons to international tribunals was signed on 26 December, 2002 in Delhi. The two Governments have agreed not to surrender or transfer each other's citizens to an international tribunal, unless otherwise obligated to do so by an international agreement to which both India and the United States are parties, and without the express consent of the other Government.

(c) India has not signed the statutes relating to the International Criminal Court. The bilateral agreement with the United States, which does not have any reference to International Criminal Court, flows from the position of both countries that their national judicial processes will have primacy.